Allegation of Favouritism in UPSC

3499. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media report under the caption "Chayan Prakriya mein pakshpat ka aarop ?";

(b) whether the allegation of favouritism has been made against the UPSC in the selection of 33 Executive Engineers for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and

(c) if so, the details and status thereof and action being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, Allegation of favouritism has been made.

(c) The Union Public Service Commission have reported that the allegations of favouritism against the Commission *prima-facie* are not correct. The Ministry's representative was appointed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The Commission had also asked the Ministry concerned to ensure that their representative is not interested in or related to any candidate. The Ministerial representative has no role to play in the selection of the candidates in the Interview Board. He only assists the Board in case any clarification about the posts, its recruitment rules, promotional avenues and duties of the posts etc., are sought by the Board. The candidates selected for the posts in question were found suitable for appointment by the eminent advisers of proven acumen and experience.

Restoration of LTC

3500. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Leave Travel Concession (LTC) for the Central and State Government employees may be restor boost tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it would be extended once in four years to retired pensioners for encouraging inland domestic travel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) LTC suspension order has been revoked *w.e.f.* 2nd March, 2003 to the Central Government employees. The State Government employees are governed by the rules and regulations framed by the respective State Governments and therefore, it is for those Governments to take appropriate decision in the matter.

(b) LTC facility for Central Government employees has been restored *w.e.f.* the current block year *i.e.* 2002—2005 for any place in India and 2002-2003 for home town.

(c) No, Sir.

Medium of entrance examinations in defence services

†3501. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to State :

(a) whether English paper is compulsory in NDA, CDS and other entrance examinations of defence services;

(b) whether Hindi paper is also compulsory or is optional in the said examination;

(c) whether good knowledge of English is essential for higher officers of defence services;

(d) whether knowledge of Hindi is also desirable; and

(e) if so, action taken/proposed to be taken by Government so far examination of Hindi in entrance examination of defence services for judging knowledge of Hindi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Union Public Service Commission conducts two examinations *viz.* the National Defence

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.